

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE BILL 305

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING NEXT-STEP PLANS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN WHICH THE STUDENTS SET PERSONAL POST-HIGH-SCHOOL GOALS; REQUIRING A FINAL NEXT-STEP PLAN AS PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 257, Section 1 and by Laws 2001, Chapter 276, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. - -

A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 B. [~~Beginning with students entering the ninth~~
2 ~~grade in the 1986-87 school year~~] Successful completion of a
3 minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for graduation.
4 These units shall be as follows:

5 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis
6 on grammar and literature;

7 (2) three units in mathematics;

8 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
9 have a laboratory component;

10 (4) three units in social science, which shall
11 include United States history and geography, world history and
12 geography and government and economics;

13 (5) one unit in physical [~~fitness~~] education;

14 (6) one unit in communication skills, with
15 major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a
16 language other than English; and

17 (7) nine elective units. Only the following
18 elective units shall be counted toward meeting the requirements
19 for graduation: fine arts, i.e. music, band, chorus and art;
20 practical arts; physical education; languages other than
21 English; speech; drama; vocational education; mathematics;
22 science; English; [~~R.O.T.C.~~] reserve officers' training corps;
23 social science; computer science; health education; American
24 sign language; and other electives approved by the state board.

25 With the approval of the local school board, participation

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 in a marching band, on an athletic team or in an athletic sport
2 during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the
3 physical education required unit.

4 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all
5 students in all classes offered for credit.

6 D. No student shall receive a high school diploma
7 who has not passed a state graduation examination in the
8 subject areas of reading, English, math, writing, science and
9 social science. [~~Beginning with the 1996-97 school year~~] The
10 state graduation examinations on social science shall include a
11 section on the [~~constitution of the~~] United States constitution
12 and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from
13 the school system at the end of grade twelve without having
14 passed a state graduation examination, he shall receive an
15 appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits
16 earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a
17 student exits from the school system he takes and passes the
18 state graduation examination, he may receive a high school
19 diploma.

20 E. No student shall receive a high school diploma
21 who has not completed and filed a final next-step plan pursuant
22 to Section 22-2-8.11 NMSA 1978.

23 [~~E.~~] F. The state board may establish a policy to
24 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
25 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."

. 142990. 2GR

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code,
2 Section 22-2-8.11 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

3 "22-2-8.11. [NEW MATERIAL] NEXT-STEP PLANS REQUIRED--
4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, STATE BOARD AND STATE SUPERINTENDENT--
5 ADDITIONAL DUTIES.--

6 A. As used in this section:

7 (1) "interim next-step plan" means an annual
8 personal written plan, developed by a student, in consultation
9 with the student's parent or guardian and school counselor or
10 other school official charged with coursework planning for the
11 student, in which the student specifies post-high-school goals
12 and sets forth the coursework that will allow the student to
13 achieve those goals; and

14 (2) "final next-step plan" means a personal
15 written plan, developed by a student, in consultation with the
16 student's parent or guardian and school counselor or other
17 school official charged with coursework planning for the
18 student, that shows that the student has committed or intends
19 to commit in the near future to a four-year college or
20 university, a two-year college, a trade or vocational program,
21 an internship or apprenticeship, military service or a job.

22 B. No student shall be promoted from the ninth,
23 tenth or eleventh grade who has not developed and filed an
24 updated interim next-step plan within sixty days prior to the
25 end of the school year. The plan shall explain any differences

. 142990. 2GR

1 from previous interim next-step plans, shall be filed with the
2 principal of the student's high school and shall be signed by
3 the student, the student's parent or guardian and the student's
4 guidance counselor or other school official charged with
5 coursework planning for the student.

6 C. No student shall receive a high school diploma
7 who has not completed and filed a final next-step plan within
8 sixty days prior to graduation. The plan shall be filed with
9 the principal of the student's high school and shall be signed
10 by the student, the student's parent or guardian and the
11 student's guidance counselor or other school official charged
12 with coursework planning for the student.

13 D. A local school board shall ensure that each high
14 school student has the opportunity to implement the student's
15 next-step plan and is fully informed about:

- 16 (1) curricular and course options;
17 (2) opportunities available that lead to
18 different post-high-school options; and
19 (3) alternative opportunities available if the
20 student does not finish a planned curriculum.

21 E. The state board shall:
22 (1) establish specific accountability
23 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
24 district staff to ensure that every student is able to develop
25 and implement a next-step plan; and

1 (2) promulgate rules for private schools in
2 order to ensure substantial compliance with the provisions of
3 this section.

4 F. The state superintendent shall:

5 (1) monitor compliance with the requirements
6 of this section; and

7 (2) compile such information as is necessary
8 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report annually,
9 by December 15, to the legislative education study committee
10 and the governor. "

11 Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the
12 provisions of this section is July 1, 2003.

13 - 6 -
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete